



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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## **WSDA to hold public hearing on nursery records and fruit tree certification fees**

**OLYMPIA** -- Two proposals affecting fruit tree and grapevine nurseries -- changes in the fruit tree certification fees and some additional record-keeping requirements -- will be discussed at a public hearing by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

The hearing is scheduled for 1 p.m. on April 27 at the WSU Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center, 1100 N. Western Avenue, Wenatchee.

One of the proposals would specify minimal record-keeping requirements for sales of grapevines and fruit trees by licensed nurseries. The department collects an assessment on sales of these plants to support certification programs. The additional records would allow the department to determine if accurate assessment amounts were paid.

The second proposal would affect certification application fees for fruit trees such as peaches, cherries, apricots, plums, pears and apples. These fees help fund certification programs that facilitate the movement of virus-tested fruit trees in domestic and international markets. The proposal would increase the certification fee for each registered seed tree and establish a new certification fee for each registered scion tree.

Written testimony can also be sent electronically, by mail or by fax to Henri Gonzales, Washington State Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504, FAX: (360) 902-2094 or e-mail: [hgonzales@agr.wa.gov](mailto:hgonzales@agr.wa.gov). Written testimony must be received by April 27.

The tentative adoption date of the proposed rules is May 11. An effective date of June 11 is proposed for the nursery assessment record-keeping rule and an effective date of July 1 is proposed for the fruit tree certification application fee rule.

More information and a copy of the proposed rule are available on the department's web site at [www.agr.wa.gov](http://www.agr.wa.gov). Click on "Plants & Insects" then "Rule-making Activity."

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